

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/437,469

Examiner

Amanda H. Merlino

Applicant(s)

DE RENZIS, ANTONIO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 7/11/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5,6,8-15,18 and 20-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-15, 18, and 20-24 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-15, and 20-24 the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method for measuring distance comprising steps of carrying out a sampling of an analogue electric signal representative of a distance traveled by the emitted signal and the object diffused signal, so as to extract at least one sample  $x_k$ , representative of at least one respect point of the scanning line and converting the sampled analogue signal into a digital signal so as to obtain a numerical value of said at least one sample  $x_k$  wherein prior to the above step, there is a measuring device calibrations step so as to associate at least one calibration sample  $x_j$  of a calibration distance signal and a respective numerical value of said at least one sample  $x_j$  with a prefixed distance value..., in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1.

As to claims 18, the prior of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method for measuring distance comprising a calibration step wherein a prefixed distance is associated with a prefixed comparison signal by scanning light along the sample and then filling with the distance values associated to the numerical values obtained for the samples  $x_j$ , the items of a calibration matrix having, as index of column  $j$  a number from zero to the number of samples  $x_j$  extracted, and as index of row  $l$ , a number from zero to the maximum value of the numerical value obtained after the analog to digital conversion of the comparison signal, the method

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further comprising the step of filling the empty items (i, j) of the matrix comprises the step of identifying column by column, the empty items (l, j) of the matrix and filling each of these empty items with a value obtained by linearly interpolating between the two numerical values differing from 0 that are nearer to the empty item, and belonging to the same column ....., in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Conclusion**

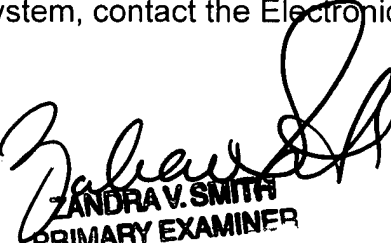
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amanda H. Merlino whose telephone number is 571-272-2421. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday and Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Amanda H Merlino  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2877  
September 29, 2005

  
ZANDRA V. SMITH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
9/30/05

Gregory J. Toatley, Jr.  
Supervisory Patent Examiner